



North Arlington Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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North Arlington Public School District – Preschool Education Aid (PEA)

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Good evening, community members.

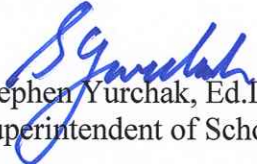
As you are aware, our administrative team, with the support of the North Arlington Board of Education, has been promoting the need for universal preschool within the North Arlington Public School District for several years. After exploring a number of avenues to expand opportunities for early childhood education, **we are proud to announce that after completing a competitive application process, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will be issuing \$560,208 in Preschool Education Aid (PEA) to the North Arlington Public School District!** North Arlington is one of just ten school districts, state-wide, to be awarded PEA for the 2020-2021 school year.

This initial funding will allow us to provide a third of our current four year-old population with a free, early-education program, as early as February 1, 2021. Priority, during the application process, will be given to children who qualify due to specific socio-economic criteria. All other students will be eligible to attend via a lottery, which should take place in the coming weeks.

The PEA is renewed on an annual basis and, with the support of our community and local Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), can be expanded to serve a greater number of preschool-aged children for years to come. Our local childcare providers, many of whom are a part of the ECAC, will now have the ability to take part in a more unified effort to provide high-quality public education to our early learners. Furthermore, PEA has prompted the future expansion of our specialized preschool for four year-olds from a half-day to a full-day program!

More information will be released soon, as we continue to work with the NJDOE's Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE). We are extremely excited about this opportunity that will strengthen our entire community!

Sincerely,


Stephen Yurchak, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools